

Youth Smoking

The prevalence of cigarette smoking ("smoked in the last 30 days") among youth 12–17 years of age in California decreased from 11% in 1994 to 5.9% in 2001, as measured by the California Youth Tobacco Survey (CYTS).

Please note that the CYTS is a telephone survey, which tends to result in lower smoking prevalence rates than the rates from a classroom-administered survey.

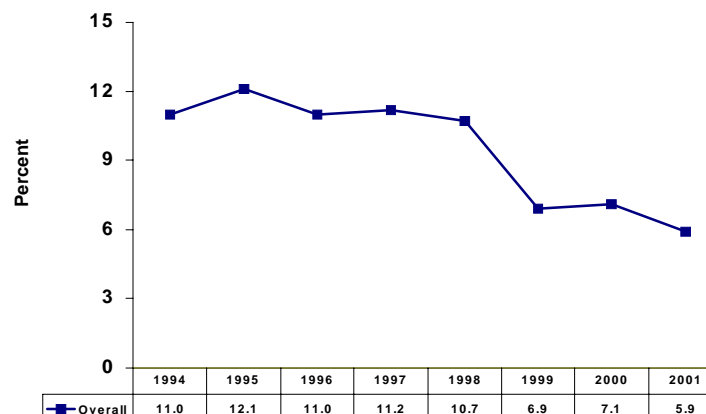
Youth Prevalence

- The California youth smoking prevalence was 5.9% in the year 2001.
- From 1994 to 1998, youth smoking prevalence did not change.
- The greatest one-year decline in smoking prevalence—from 10.7% to 6.9%—was from 1998 to 1999.
- Overall, from 1994 to 2001, youth smoking prevalence declined 46% in California.

Youth Prevalence by Age

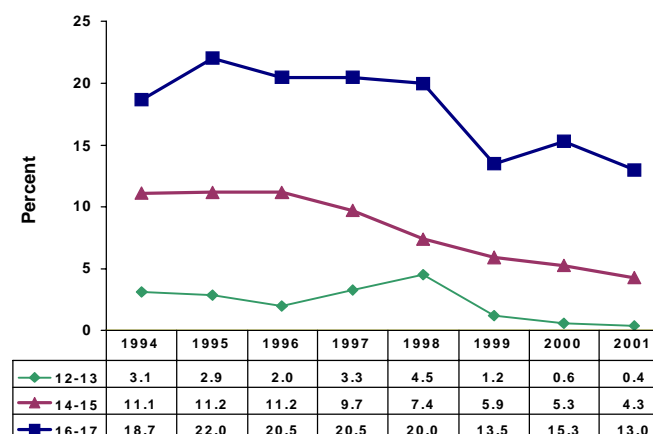
- Smoking prevalence among teens 12–13 years of age dropped to 0.4% in 2001 from 4.5% in 1998.
- From 1994 to 2001, smoking prevalence declined 61% among teens 14–15 years of age.
- From 1994 to 1998, smoking prevalence among teens 16–17 years of age remained high at approximately 20% and has since dropped to 13% in 2001.

30-day Smoking Prevalence among California Youth, 1994-2001



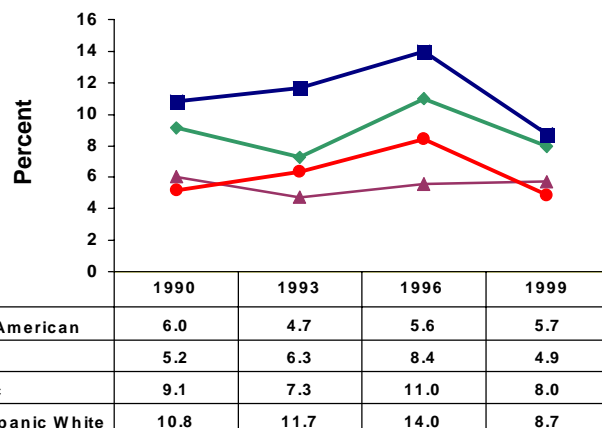
Source: CYTS, 1994 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

30-day Smoking Prevalence among California Youth by Age Group, 1994-2001



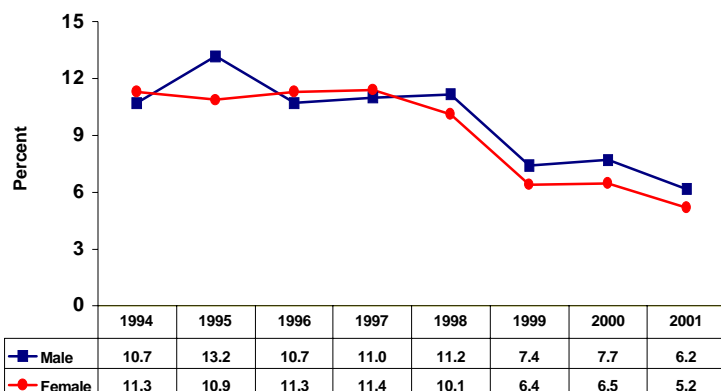
Source: CYTS, 1994 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

30-day Smoking Prevalence among California Youth by Race Group, 1990-1999



Source: CTS, 1990, 1993, 1996, and 1999 are weighted to the 1990 California population.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

30-day Smoking Prevalence among California Youth by Gender, 1994-2001



Source: CYTS, 1994 - 2001 is weighted to the 1990 California population.
Prepared by: California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section, 2002.

Youth Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

- Non-Hispanic White youth (12-17 years of age) had the highest smoking prevalence among the four largest racial/ethnic groups. African American and Asian youth had the lowest smoking prevalence.
- The prevalence of smoking among youth in all the groups except African Americans increased from 1990 to 1996.
- The prevalence of smoking declined significantly from 1996 to 1999 among Asian, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic White youth populations, but not African Americans.

Youth Prevalence by Gender

- From 1994 to 2001, youth smoking rates in California did not differ significantly by gender.

About the Survey

The California Youth Tobacco Survey (CYTS) (1994-2000) is a random digit-dial telephone survey of 2,300 youth conducted annually by the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Unit of the Cancer Surveillance Section of the CDHS. Data have been weighted to the 1990 California population using gender, 4 race and 3 age groups.

The California Tobacco Surveys (CTS) (1990, 1992-1993, 1996, 1999), funded by the Tobacco Control Section of the CDHS, were conducted by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program of the University of California, San Diego. The California Tobacco Survey is a very large-scale telephone survey that includes a screener survey, an adult extended survey and a youth survey.

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